## REMARKS

Claims 31-47 were pending in this application. Claims 31-41, 46 and 47 are currently amended without any intent of disclaiming equivalents thereof. Claims 42-45 are cancelled without prejudice to Applicants' right to prosecute their subject matter in the present application and in related applications. Claims 46 and 47 are withdrawn. New claims 48-59 are added. Accordingly, upon entry of this paper, claims 31-41 and 46-59 are pending and presented for consideration.

*Claim Amendments*

Claims 31-40, 46 and 47 are amended to correct informalities and for clarification. Claim 32 is amended to delete one embodiment. The deleted embodiment is recited in new claim 57. In addition, new claims 58 and 59 are added to recite the subject matter initially recited in claims 35 and 36.

Support for the amendment to claim 31 is found in the specification at least, for example, at pages 27-28, Examples 5 and 6. Support for the amendment to claim 41 is found in the specification at least, for example, at page 11, lines 18-19. Support for the amendment to claim 46 is found in the specification at least, for example, at page 13, lines 1-6. Support for new claim 48 is found in the specification at least, for example, at pages 27-28, Example 6. Support for new claim 49 is found in the specification at least, for example, at page 11, lines 25-27. Support for new claim 50 is found in the specification at least, for example, at page 13, line 29, to page 14, line 13. Support for new claim 51 is found in the specification at least, for example, at page 8, lines 24-28. Support for new claim 52 is found in the specification at least, for example, at page 9, lines 11-12. Support for new claim 53 is found in the specification at least, for example, at page 10, lines 21-31. Support for new claim 54 is found in the specification at least, for example, at page 10, line 14. Support for new claim 55 is found in the specification at least, for example, at page 11, lines 7-9. Support for new claim 56 is found in the specification at least, for example, at page 11, line 22.

Applicants submit that the amendments to the claims introduce no new matter.

*Restriction Requirement*

The Office Action requires restriction of pending claims 31-47 to one of six patentably distinct inventions identified in the Office Action as follows:

Group I, claims 31-41, drawn to a method for the discrimination between von-Willebrand disease (vWD) type 1 and type 2.

Group II, claim 42, drawn to a use of a soluble form or a portion of glycoprotein 1b(α) (GP1b(α )) for the discrimination between von-Willebrand disease (vWD) type 1 and type 2.

Group III, claim 43, drawn to a use of ristocetin or a functional equivalent substance of ristocetin for the discrimination between von-Willebrand disease (vWD) type 1 and type 2.

Group IV, claim 44, drawn to a use of specifically reacting anti-GP1b(α) antibody for the discrimination between von-Willebrand disease (vWD) type 1 and type 2.

Group V, claim 45, drawn to a use of specifically reacting anti-vWF antibody for the discrimination between von-Willebrand disease (vWD) type 1 and type 2.

Group VI, claims 46 and 47, drawn to a kit for the discrimination between von-Willebrand disease (vWD) type 1 and type 2.

Applicants provisionally elect, *with traverse*, the invention identified as "Group I" in the Office Action including claims 31-41 and new claims 48-59.

In addition, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration to recombine Group I method claims and Group VI kit claims. As set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.475(b)(4), an international or a national stage application containing claims to different categories of invention will be considered to have unity of invention if the claims are drawn to a process and an apparatus or means specifically designed for carrying out the said process (also see, page 3 of the Office Action, category (b)(4)). Group I claims are directed to a method for detecting von-Willebrand disease. Group VI claims are directed to a kit specifically designed for carrying out the method for detecting von-Willebrand disease. Therefore, Applicants submit that Group I contains claims

drawn to a process and Group VI contains claims drawn to an apparatus or means (*i.e.*, a kit) specifically designed for carrying out the process. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claims of Group I and Group VI should be considered to have unity of invention under 37 C.F.R. §1.475(b)(4).

Furthermore, Applicants submit that Group I and Group VI claims, as amended, share a novel special technical feature in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.475(a), *i.e.*, the use of a soluble form or a portion of glycoprotein 1b(α) and a ristocetin or a functionally equivalent substance for detecting von-Willebrand disease. In particular, this special technical feature is novel over Murata *et al.* (J. Biol. Chem., 1991, 266:15474-15480). Murata *et al.* teaches a method of detecting the binding of $^{125}$I labeled vWF to the immobilized glycoprotein 1b(α) in the presence of ristocetin or botrocetin (*see, e.g.*, Murata *et al.*, p15475, column 2, lines 26-53). Murata *et al.* does not teach or suggest the use of a soluble form or a portion of glycoprotein 1b(α) and a ristocetin or a functionally equivalent substance for detecting von-Willebrand disease. Accordingly, Applicants submit that this special feature shared by Group I and Group VI claims are novel over Murata *et al.*

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that provisionally elected Group I and Group VI claims be rejoined because the claims satisfy the requirement of unity of invention as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.475.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any outstanding issues. Early favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 9, 2005
Reg. No. 51,551

Fangli Chen, Ph.D.
Agent for Applicants
Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham LLP
75 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109

Tel. No.: (617) 261-3198
Fax No.: (617) 261-3175
Customer Number: 022832